

Mireille Lebel

mezzo-soprano

Hailed as 'a most promising talent' (Le Devoir) mezzo-soprano Mireille Lebel is fast becoming one of Canada's most sought after young performers. She recently completed her tenure as a young artist at the Montreal Opera and spends much of the coming season with Theatre Erfurt, making her European début as Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and adding Ottone in Handel's *Agrippina* and the title role in *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* to her repertoire. She also adds the title role in *Carmen* which she will perform in her début with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. Further plans for the season include a recording of Blow's *Venus and Adonis* with the Boston Early Music Festival, and Handel's *Messiah* in her début with the Calgary Philharmonic.

Her 2008-2009 season saw a busy mix of opera and concert work including Mahler's *2nd Symphony* with Jacques Lacombe and l'Orchèstre Symphonique de Trois-Rivières, a program of Vivaldi and Handel arias at Tel Aviv's Blumental Festival with Jeanne Lamon and Les Violons du Roy, Christmas Pops with Bob Bernhardt and the Edmonton Symphony, Haydn's *Stabat Mater* with Bernard Labadie (broadcast on Espace Musique), Cupid in *Venus and Adonis* with the Boston Early Music Festival, *The Messiah* with Jean-Marie Zeitouni and the San Antonio and Houston Symphonies, Dorabella in *Così fan Tutte* with l'Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal, Myrta in Massenet's *Thaïs* with Pacific Opera Victoria, the role of Messagiera in Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, and the world premiere of a chamber work written for her by Canadian Michael Matthews, broadcast by the CBC.

In the 2007-2008 season she made important debuts with the André Turp Musical Society (Schubert recital) the Edmonton and Houston Symphony Orchestras (both for *The Messiah*) the Edmonton Opera (*Carmen*) and with Bernard Labadie and Les Violons du Roy in a Schubertiade recorded for broadcast on Radio Canada's Espace Musique. As a member of the Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal from 2006-2009, she performed various roles with the company including Flora in *La Traviata*, Mallika in *Lakmé* (broadcast on National Public Radio), and Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*. With the Atelier lyrique she has appeared as Concepcion in *l'Heure Espagnole* and Lisetta in *Il Mondo della Luna*.

She can be heard on disc on the Grammy nominated recordings of Lully's *Thésée* and *Psyché* on the German CPO label with the Boston Early Music Festival. Her work in *Thésée* was highly praised, the Frankfurter Allgemeine citing her performance as, 'an ecstatic mixture of linguistically oriented delivery, shapeliness of phrase and a rich spectrum of vocal colors brought together with high musicianship.' In the field of contemporary music, she toured Wales and England (including appearances at the Buxton Festival) in Welsh-Canadian composer John Metcalf's comic opera *A Chair in Love*, and she made her Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House debut in Canadian Ana Sokolovic's opera, *The Midnight Court*, with Toronto's Queen of Puddings Music Theatre.

Ms. Lebel is the recipient of a Canada Council emerging artist grant. Awarded the Abbé Gadbois Bursary for French opera and mélodie from the University of Montreal, Ms. Lebel graduated there on scholarship with a Masters of Music. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Toronto.

Full Biography | Updated June 2009